

Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association Newsletter – <http://brookfieldneighborhood.net>

BHNA Officers

President: Rhoda Wolff, 1625 Roseland (2010-13)

Vice-President: Susie Engehart, 244 Maplewood (2010-13)

Treasurer: Jan Bernsten, 184 Maplewood (2008- 11)

Secretary: Judy Cunningham, 1511 Roseland (2010-13)

Communications: Dawn Parker, 253 Oakland (2010-13)

Members-at-large:

Carl Lira, 131 Oakland (2009-12)

Sally Lloyd, 216 Oakland (2009-12)

Kristen Rosenbrook, 236 Oakland (2008-11)

Judy Putnam Gwizdz, 241 Maplewood (2009-12)

Contact board: board@brookfieldneighborhood.net

Annual meeting, picnic set for Sept. 18

By Dawn Parker

What's the most fun you can have on a fall Sunday afternoon without going far from home?

The Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association annual meeting and picnic!

The festivities are set for 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 18, with a rain date of Sunday, Sept. 25. The event will be held on Oakland Drive this year at the midpoint of the street.

Oakland Drive will be blocked at Roseland from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. for the event.

The annual gathering has many purposes, not the least of which is gathering with neighbors old and new.

All five East Lansing City Council candidates will be present from 4 to 5 p.m. for informal discussions, and it's hoped the three East Lansing School Board candidates will attend as well.

A representative of Lansing Board of Water and Light will speak from 5 to 5:15 p.m. on energy efficiency, followed by a presentation on Neighborhood Watch from the East Lansing Police Department.

The annual meeting, including election of board members, begins at 5:30 p.m.

Children's activities, including a balloon man, will be provided from 5 to 6 p.m.

BHNA officers will bring main dishes, while everyone else is encouraged to bring a dish to pass. The association will provide beverages, condiments, ice, plates, napkins and utensils.

So join the fun, meet your neighbors and have a voice in your neighborhood!

New businesses opening at Brookfield Plaza

By Dawn Parker

Not everyone stayed quiet through the East Lansing summer, as work on at least two spaces at Brookfield Plaza has kept going.

Bagger Dave's Legendary Burger Tavern is scheduled for its grand opening at 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 18 in a portion of the former Country Market building.

Bagger Dave's is a Michigan-based restaurant with five locations, including

East Lansing. They strive to use Michigan-made products on their menu – potatoes from Alpena, for example. They look to be a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

The family-owned Everyday Chinese Restaurant has also been busily expanding, and I'm sure many BHNA residents look forward to their buffet offerings at lunchtime or their dinner menu.

Another new offering in the plaza is the Red Cedar Café.

As recently reported in the Lansing State Journal, owner Angela Anderson is offering breakfast, lunch and dinner, along with coffee and baked goods.

With all these choices and more within walking distance, it's easy to keep your money local!

This is *your* association! Your \$20 annual dues payment strengthens our voice in City affairs and helps protect our part of East Lansing!

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month at ELPL

The Brookfield Heritage Neighborhood Association's mission:

- *To preserve the neighborhood's unique treescape and environment – your dues help pay to replace trees along our streets!*
- *To promote the safety of the neighborhood.*
- *To foster community through annual picnics and social events*
- *To protect the single-family character of the area through representation in city government.*

Community members can join the East Lansing Public Library (ELPL), American Library Association and Cal Ripken, Jr. in celebrating National Library Card Sign-up Month this September.

Anyone who lives, owns a business, attends MSU or attends public school in East Lansing is encouraged to join thousands of others in registering for a free ELPL card. Non-residents can also join in the fun for an affordable \$30 per year.

In addition, ELPL will be waiving the \$2 replacement fee for lost cards this September. Interested community members can stop by ELPL, 950 Abbot Road, to sign up today.

Library cards come with a number of perks, including but not limited to, access to the library's books, new release DVDs, research databases, reference help, Internet and computer access, technology assistance, programs for all ages, job help, downloadable ebooks and audiobooks, magazines and much more. Also, coming in mid-September, ELPL cardholders can check out Nooks from the library, providing patrons with the great opportunity to 'try before they buy.'

This fall, ELPL will be implementing self-checkout and self-pickup holds in an effort to maintain library services on a smaller budget. These changes will allow

ELPL to continue providing exceptional, pro-active customer service, while keeping costs down. Patrons will be able to pick up hold items and check out materials themselves, allowing staff to move out from behind desks and become more accessible to patrons. Staff will be readily available to help with the new process and will also be more available to assist in other areas, eliminating long lines at the circulation desk. Patrons will need to have their library card and PIN with them.

Contact ELPL at (517) 351-2420 with questions about library cards and the changes coming to the library this fall.

Update your email address at our website and keep up to date on neighborhood news!

Join our announcements mailing list: visit <http://brookfieldneighborhood.net/mail> to sign up and update your address.

Send any items for the newsletter to communications officer Dawn Parker at dawn_parker@comcast.net.

ELPS board to reach school decision soon

By Dawn Parker

East Lansing Public Schools board members are expected to take a final vote on Monday, Sept. 26 regarding the reconfiguration of the school district.

Concerned with declining enrollment and fewer dollars from the state, board members have been talking for more than a year about the future uses for schools.

It's entirely possible that one or more schools might close, or none might close.

The price tag for the project varies widely, from \$33 million to remodel all six existing elementary schools to upwards of \$65 million to demolish portions of the existing schools and rebuild them to modern technology and energy-efficient standards.

Representatives of Kalamazoo-based architectural firm Tower-Pinkster have assessed the ele-

mentary schools as being "at the end of their useful lives". All six were reportedly built between 1953-55, when the city had grown significantly in population.

The bill would be paid by taxpayers, who would have to agree to extend a current 7 mills of debt by an additional 30 years. The question is likely to come up on the Feb. 28, 2012 ballot.

If the last two months of lengthy school board meetings have done anything, they have energized parents and residents of many areas in East Lansing.

Whether they are new residents with young children or those whose offspring are grown and gone, those who have spoken during public comment time in meetings have spoken about what brought them to East Lans-

ing. More often than not, the walkability of neighborhoods and the short distance to neighboring schools was a major factor.

And while Brookfield is not one of the so-called "core neighborhoods", children who live here have a manageable walk to Marble Elementary or MacDonald Middle School, and the high school is only a little farther.

To have your voice heard, plan to attend a meeting. For meeting information, check the district's web site at elpl.k12.mi.us.

If you have not already done so, please pay your \$20 annual dues and join the association! We work to preserve our unique environment and provide a voice in city affairs!